ACT 36 — ESCAPE

EXODUS

...a limit... situation...

H-How...? Humans... shouldn't be able to surpass...

1

...BELONGED TO A MAN CALLED TIMBAVATI.

THIS ARM WHICH KNOCKED YOU DOWN...

YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE FIGHTING A SINGLE HUMAN, BLOM...
THIS LEG WHICH SMASHED YOU WAS GIVEN TO ME BY ROCK-ENFIELD.
THIS LEG WHICH CHASED YOU DOWN BELONGED TO DAHL.
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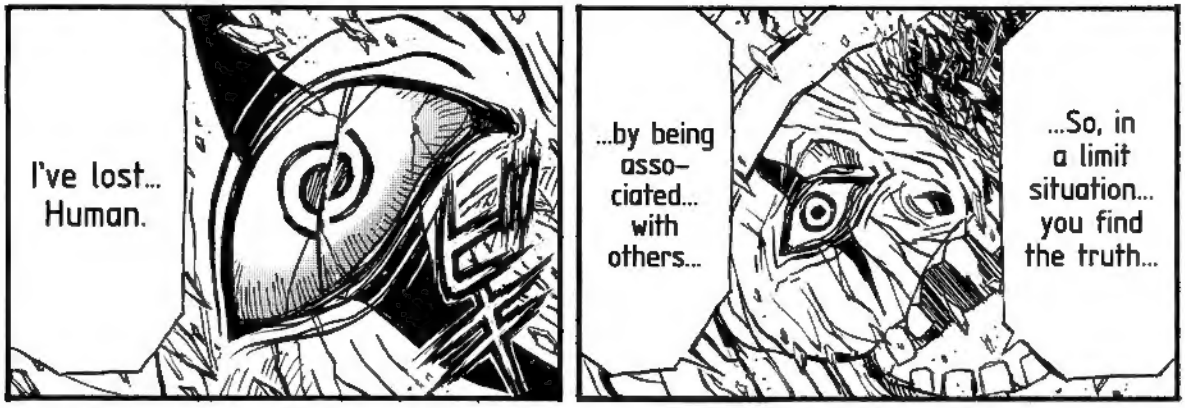
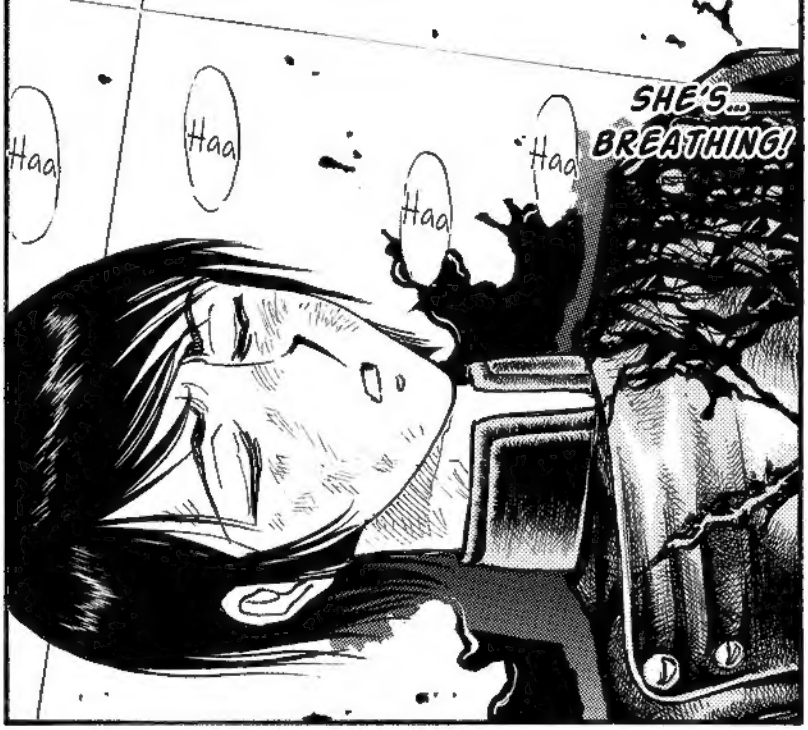
BUT I WASN'T ALONE!


I've lost... Human.
...by being asso-ciated... with others...
...So, in a limit situation... you find the truth...

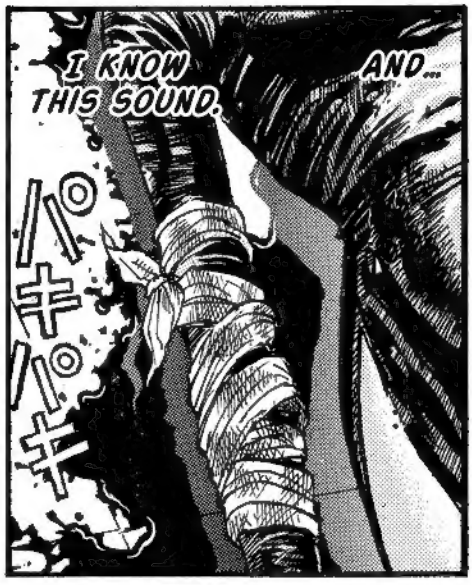
3

BIG SIS!


Haa
Haa
Haa
Haa
SHE'S... BREATHING!

...!!

THE AQUA VITAE IN HER BODY IS STILL EFFECTIVE!
IT'S THE SOUND OF THE AQUA VITAE REGENERATING HER CELLS.


I KNOW THIS SOUND.
AND...
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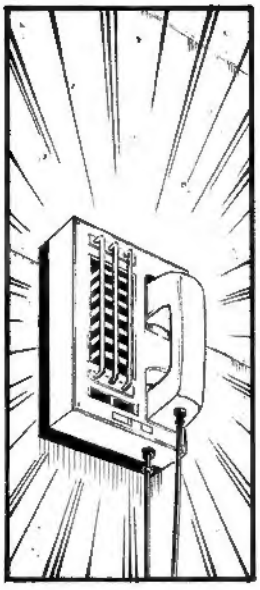

DOCTOR BERN-HARDT!
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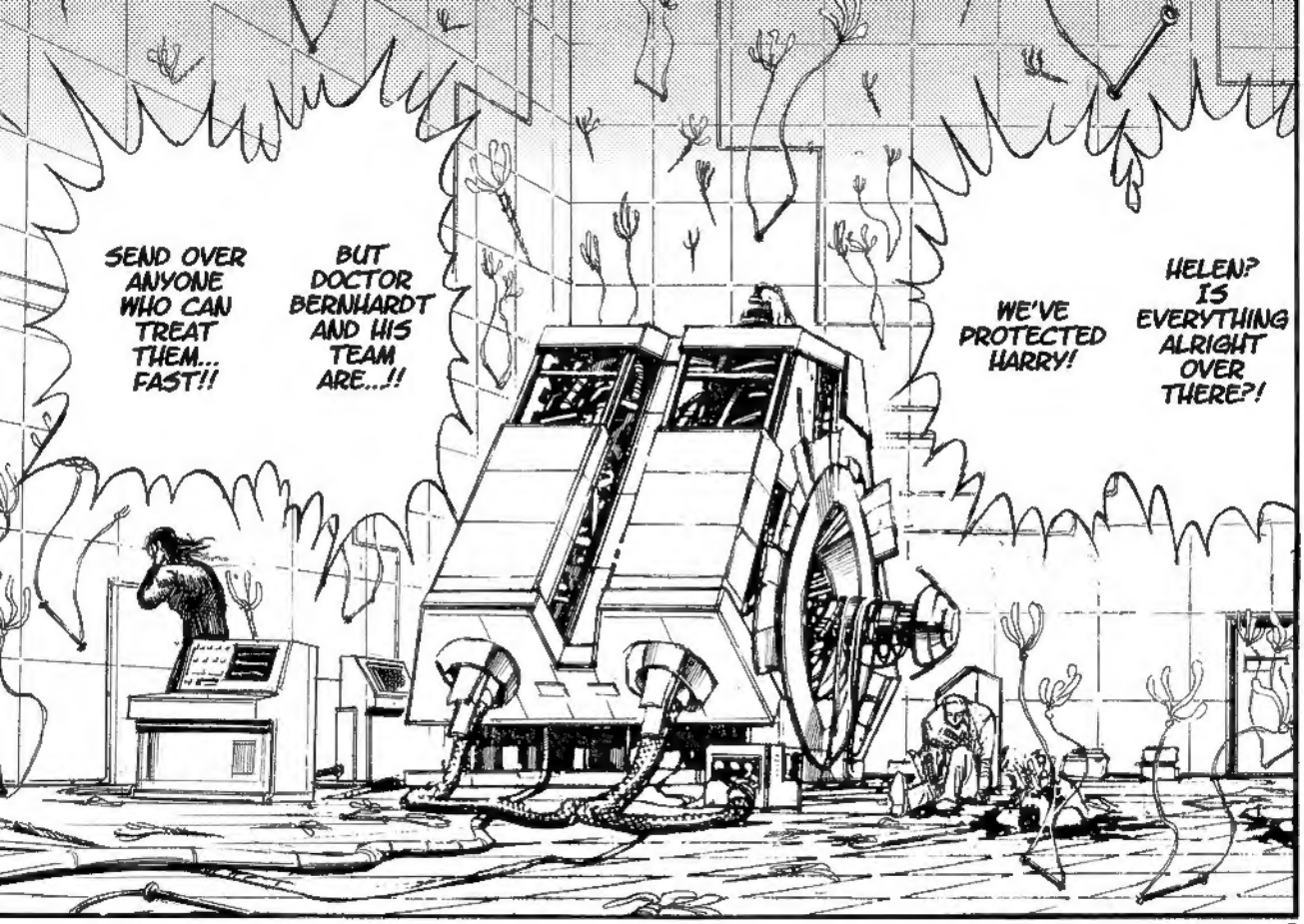

SEND OVER ANYONE WHO CAN TREAT THEM... FAST!!
BUT DOCTOR BERNHARDT AND HIS TEAM ARE...!!
WE'VE PROTECTED HARRY!
HELEN? IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT OVER THERE?!

HELEN? IT WAS GEORGE'S DUTY TO CONTACT ME...
HMPH... THIS TOOK A WHILE, EVEN FOR NARUMI.

Narumi has secured Harry! Can you hear me?!
Guy, Guy, this is Helen speaking.

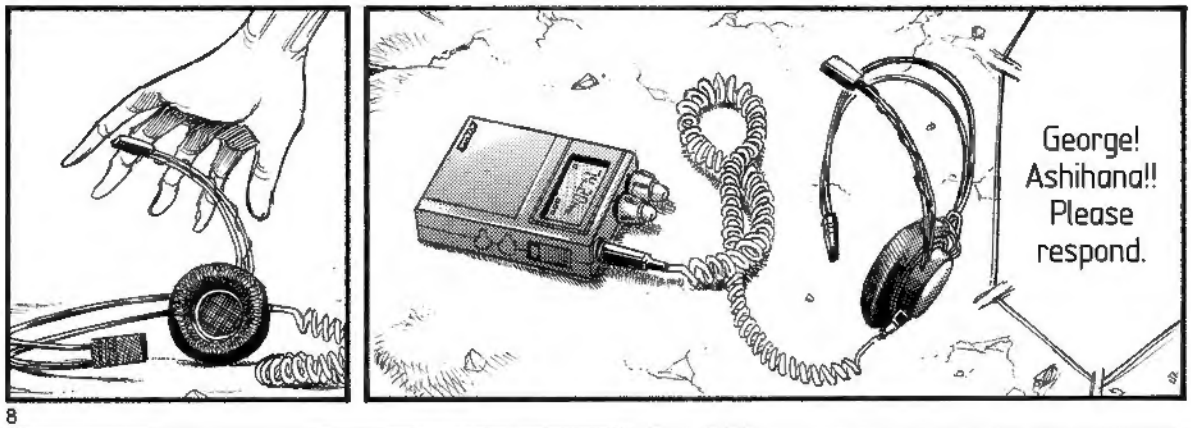
THIS ENDLESS WAVE OF ENEMIES CAN COME TO AN END.

BUT KNOWING THAT...

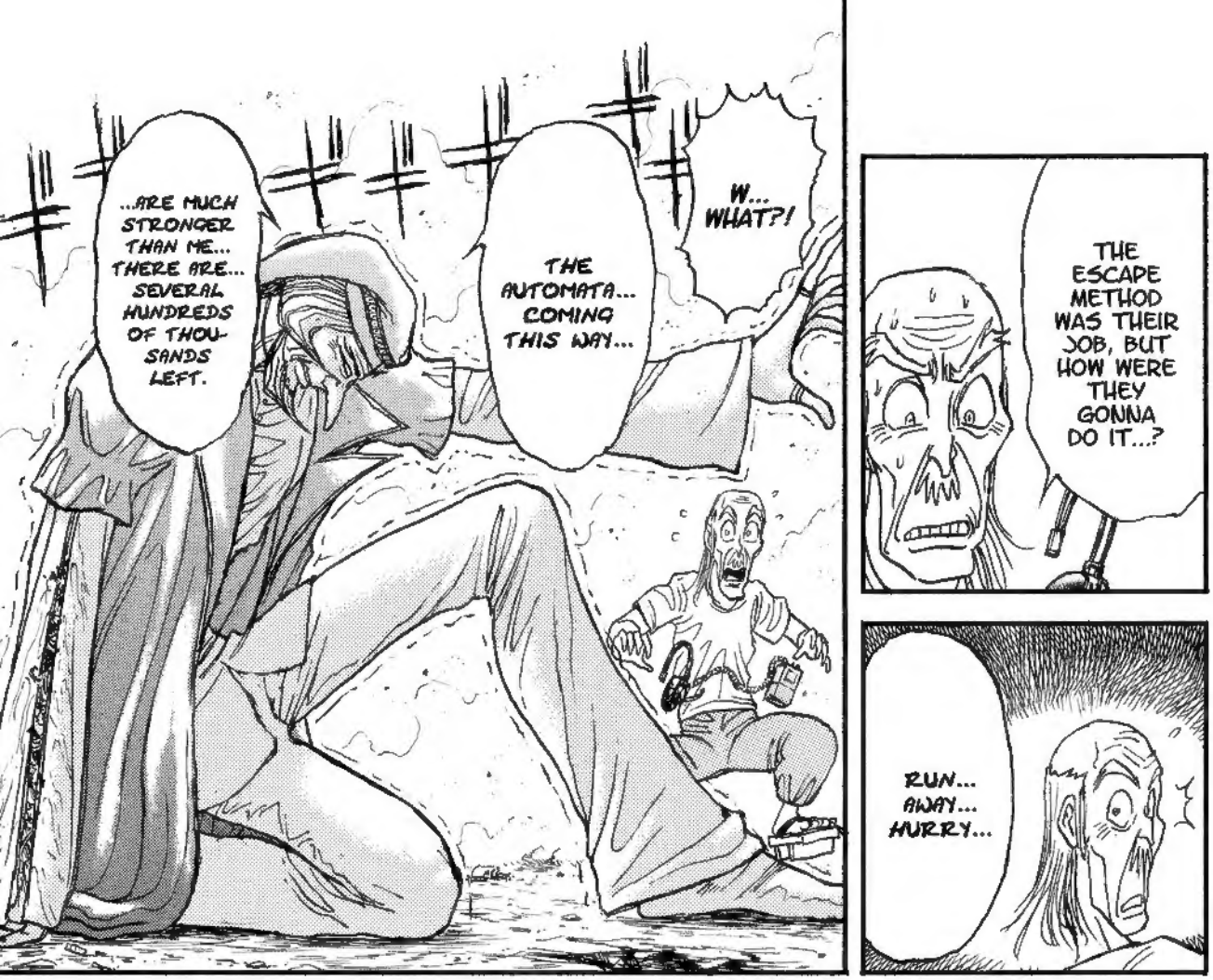
MY BELOVED OLYMPIA'S DRESS...

HAS GOTTEN SO FILTHY...

SUMMON IT ALREADY! WE'LL BE ESCAPING SOON!!
HEY, GEORGE, ASHIHANA! THE ESCAPE METHOD WAS YOUR JOB.


George! Ashihana!! Please respond.

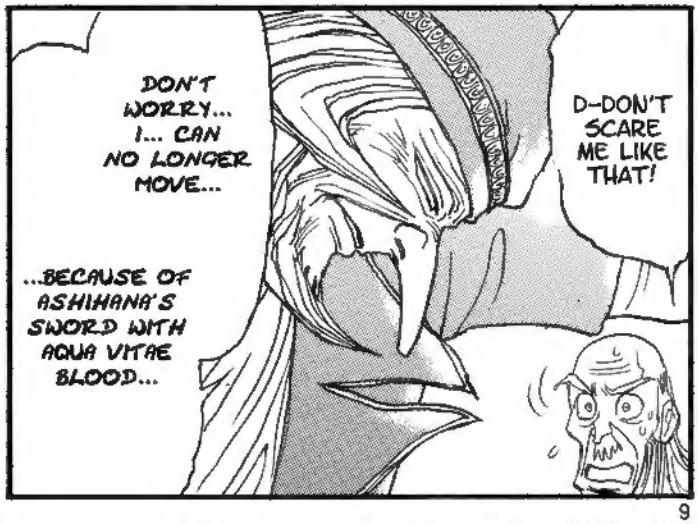
SHIT, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO USE THIS!
THIS IS HOUAN! GEORGE'S DEAD, AND ASHIHANA IS MORTALLY WOUNDED!!


W... WHAT?!
THE AUTOMATA... COMING THIS WAY...
...ARE MUCH STRONGER THAN ME... THERE ARE... SEVERAL HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS LEFT.

THE ESCAPE METHOD WAS THEIR JOB, BUT HOW WERE THEY GONNA DO IT...?

RUN... AWAY... HURRY...

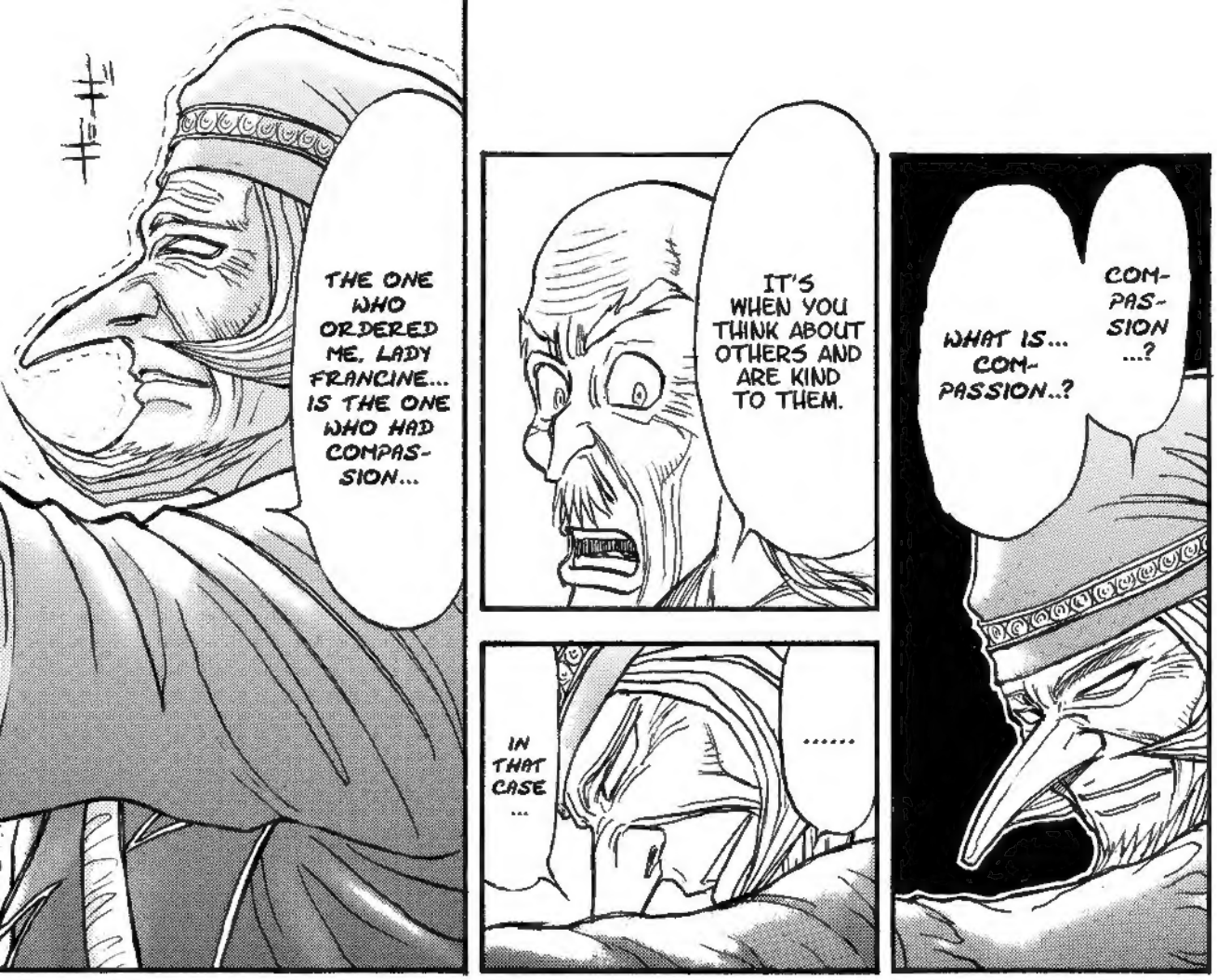
...NOW... I CAN ONLY ROT AWAY HERE...

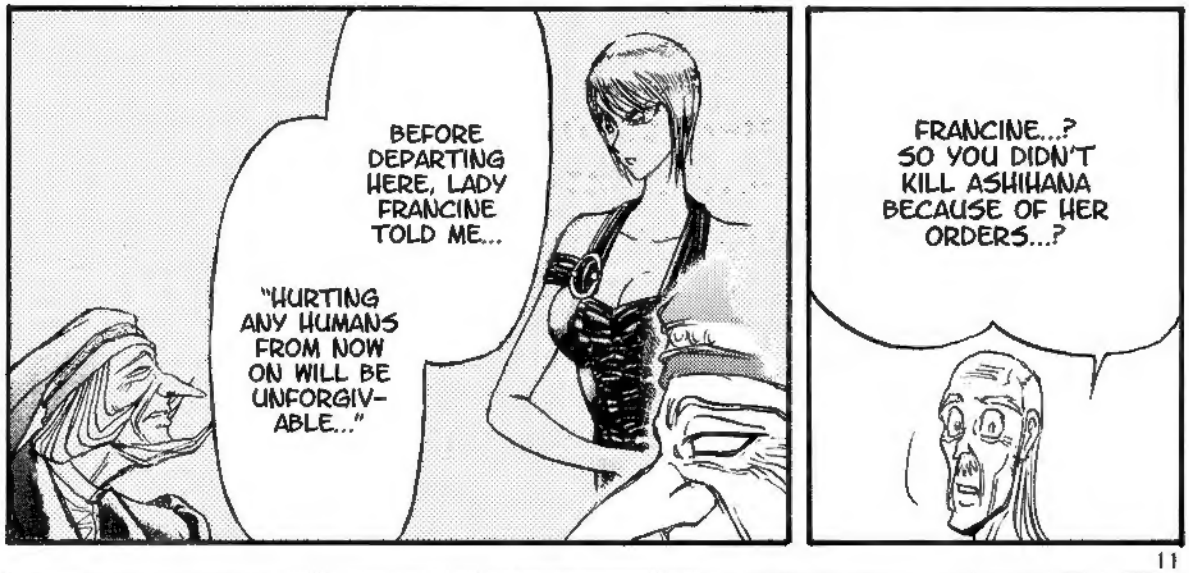

D-DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!
DON'T WORRY... I... CAN NO LONGER MOVE...
...BECAUSE OF ASHIHANA'S SWORD WITH AQUA VITAE BLOOD...

WHEN YOU WERE 'BOUT TO FINISH ASHIHANA OFF...
...THERE'S SOMETHIN' I'VE BEEN THINKING 'BOUT...

HEY, YOU...
.....

WELL... NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT IT...
IT'S LIKE YOU PURPOSELY MISSED YOUR SHOT AT HIM...
10
I THOUGHT ALL DOLLS WHERE JUST KILLING MACHINES WITHOUT A SPECK OF COMPASSION...
...I DON'T MEAN ANYTHIN' BY THIS... IT'S JUST...
AND... WHAT IF THAT'S THE CASE... HUMAN...?


THE ONE WHO ORDERED ME, LADY FRANCINE... IS THE ONE WHO HAD COMPAS-SION...
IT'S WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT OTHERS AND ARE KIND TO THEM.
WHAT IS... COM-PASSION..?
COM-PAS-SION ...?
IN THAT CASE ...
.....


BEFORE DEPARTING HERE, LADY FRANCINE TOLD ME...
"HURTING ANY HUMANS FROM NOW ON WILL BE UNFORGIV-ABLE..."
FRANCINE...? SO YOU DIDN'T KILL ASHIHANA BECAUSE OF HER ORDERS...?

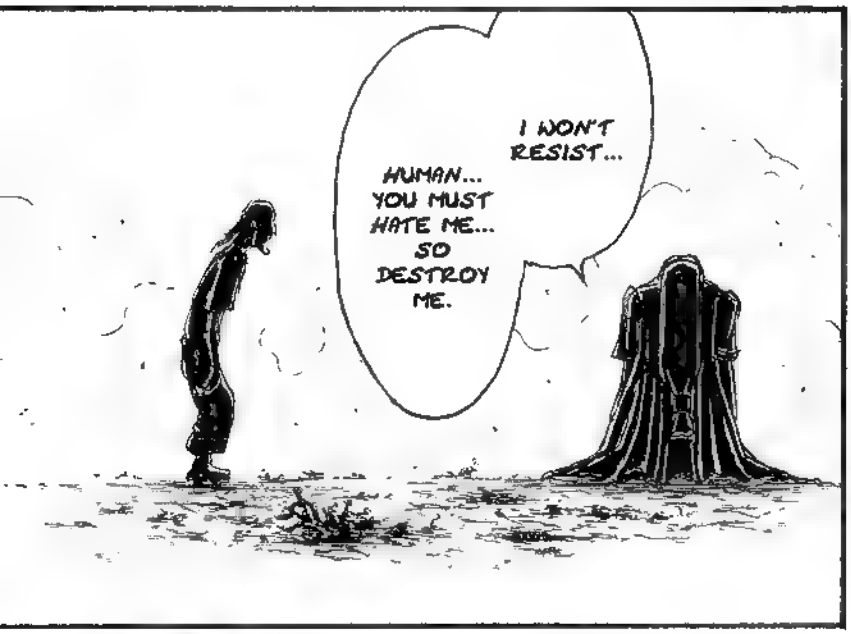
IF A HUMAN... SOMEONE LIKE ASHIHANA, WERE TO CHALLENGE ME... I WAS CREATED TO NOT BACK DOWN FROM A FIGHT, WHICH MEANS...
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO NOT HURT PEOPLE...?
...HOWEVER... AN INCOMPAT-IBLE NOTION AROSE WITHIN ME...

...I...
FAILED...
TO OBEY HER ORDER...
I WOULD END UP HURTING THEM, JUST LIKE HIM...
AS LONG AS THEY DON'T DIE...

...I...
...HAVE NO PLACE... TO GO BACK TO...
...EVEN THOUGH... I FINALLY MET... THE REAL MASTER I SHOULD SERVE...

W... WHAT...?
PICK THAT ROCK... AND CRUSH MY HEAD WITH IT...
HUMAN...

I'VE ALREADY... LOST THE REASON FOR MY EXISTENCE...
THE REASON WHY... I KILLED HUMANS... WAS SOLELY FOR PLEASURING LADY FRANCINE... TO MAKE HER LAUGH...


I WON'T RESIST...
HUMAN... YOU MUST HATE ME... SO DESTROY ME.

BUT... LADY FRANCINE FORBID THAT...
AND SINCE I COULDN'T OBEY THAT ORDER... I HAVE NO REASON... TO KEEP FUNC-TIONING...

...HE'S... ALREADY DEAD...

DIDN'T KILL ASHI-HANA...
...BUT STILL... YOU...

.....

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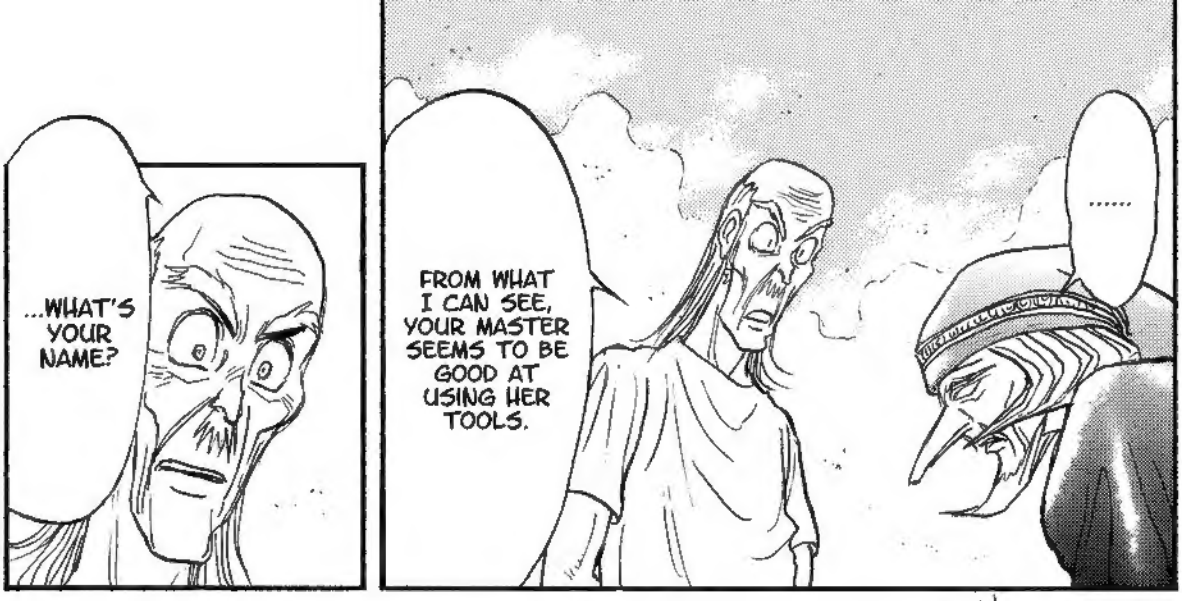
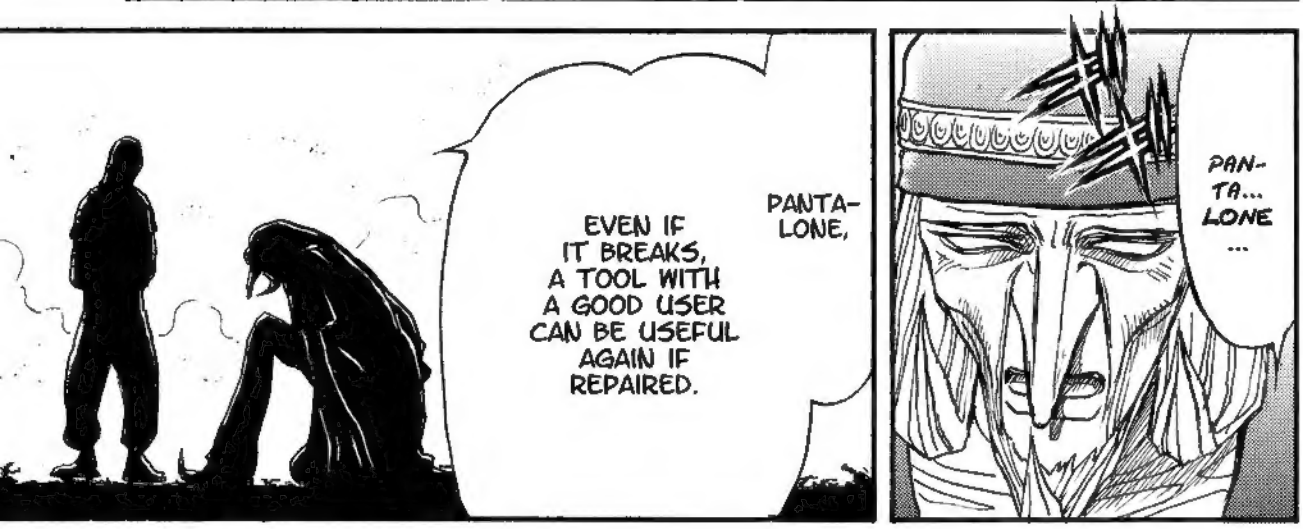
SO I WON'T KILL YOU EITHER.
IT'S FAINT, BUT HE'S BREATHIN'.
THANKS TO YOU NOT FINISHIN' HIM OFF.
THIS WOMAN ONCE TOLD ME...
...THAT SHE WAS RAISED AS A TOOL WHO COULD DO NOTHIN' BUT CIRCUS' STUFF...
WHAT ...?
YOU'RE A MACHINE WHO FAITHFULLY FOLLOWS SOMEONE'S ORDERS... IN OTHER WORDS, A TOOL...
BUT THAT SHE COMPLETELY CHANGED AFTER MEETING A CERTAIN MAN...

THE ONES DOING THE JOBS ARE PEOPLE, AND THEY'RE EITHER GOOD AT IT, OR THEY SUCK.
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A TOOL WHO CAN DO A GOOD JOB AND A TOOL WHO CAN'T...
AS A CIRCUS' PROPMAN, I'VE BEEN MESSIN' AROUND WITH TOOLS FOR A LONG TIME...


.....
FROM WHAT I CAN SEE, YOUR MASTER SEEMS TO BE GOOD AT USING HER TOOLS.
...WHAT'S YOUR NAME?


PAN-TA... LONE ...
PANTA-LONE,
EVEN IF IT BREAKS, A TOOL WITH A GOOD USER CAN BE USEFUL AGAIN IF REPAIRED.

YOU'RE NOT A HUMAN LIKE THAT WOMAN...
BUT, YOU KNOW, I THINK THAT EVEN TOOLS...
...CAN CHANGE LIKE SHE DID.

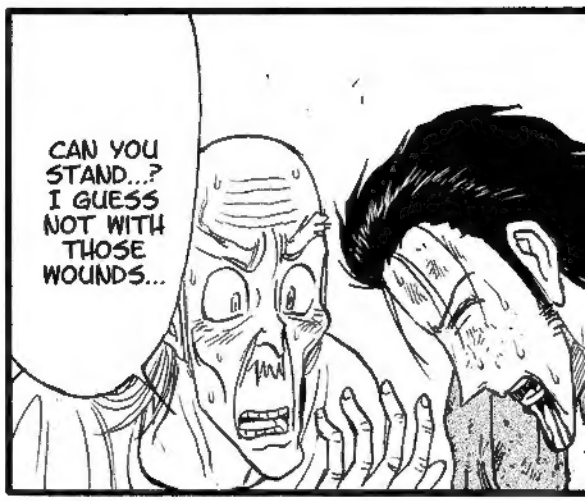
PANTALONE, WHY DON'T YOU TRY TO CHANGE... OBEYING YOUR MASTER'S ORDERS?
AND THEN...

HM?
WHY NOT COME TO MY CIRCUS?

HEY, ASHIHANA, GET A GRIP...

RIGHT, SO WE NEED TO ESCAPE ..!!
HEE HEEH...

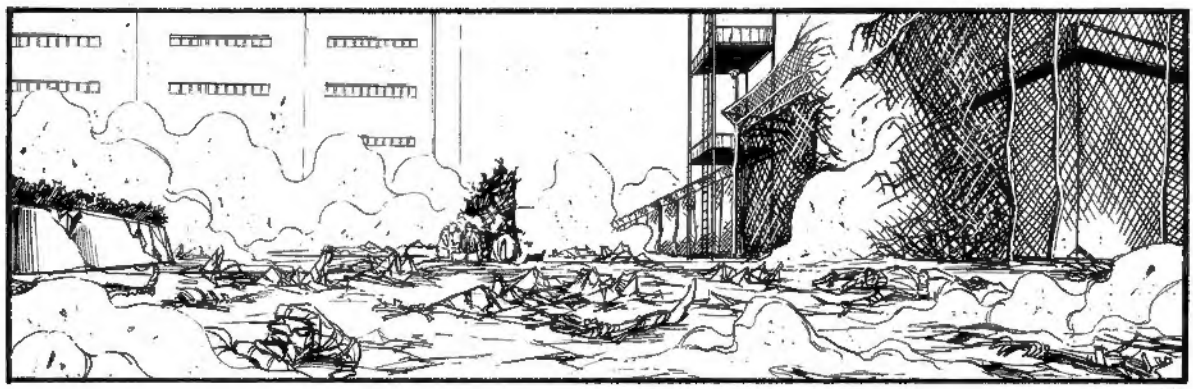
...I HEARD... THAT NARUMI FELLOW PROTECTED THE MACHINE...
Ohh... Ashihana, you've come to!


CAN YOU STAND...? I GUESS NOT WITH THOSE WOUNDS...

...WAIT A BIT...

SO NOW... I'LL SUMMON IT...
YEAH, THAT! GUY ALSO TALKED ABOUT IT, BUT WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SUMMON-ING?!
INHALE
...I BET ...IT'LL BE A HELL OF A SURPRISE TO YOU, OLD MAN...

GET ON BOARD, COME ON OUT!!
THIS IS THE TRAIN STATION!
THE STATION-MASTER BLOWS HIS WHISTLE, CHOO-CHOO!



WE GOT THIS WHEN WE WERE AT THE TENT... GEORGE HANDED IT OVER TO FOU...
?!
AN EARTH-QUAKE?

WELL, JUST... WAIT...
HAVE YOU GONE CRAZY?
W-WHAT THE HELL, ASHIHA-NA...?

AND GAVE IT BACK TO US... FOR THIS KIND OF SITUATION...
FOU... REMODELED IT...

UWHOAA, WHAT'S THIIIIS?!
IT'S OUR OWN SUPER EXPRESS...